3. USER INTERFACE

NPDMS is an interactive system that provides an authorized user access to the processes that are performed upon demand during the online session or scheduled for later execution in the batch mode. In either case, interactive use of the system by the user is required to perform most of the functions the system provides. Functions automatically performed during overnight batch processing that are not subject to user control is the exception to this.

NPDMS facilitates the online interaction between the user and the system by providing menu-controlled access to the hierarchy of functions. Program Function (PF) Key navigation and direct command navigation are performed via pre-determined commands using the NATURAL Command Processor. Types of related functions are presented on the menu and the selection is made by entering the appropriate data associated with the desired category of functions. Entry of pre-determined commands on the navigation line at the bottom of the screen directs the command processor to a function. This may result in the appearance of another menu offering a more detailed breakdown of functions. A selection is made that may result in yet another menu of functions to be chosen, or the user may encounter a screen that provides for the input and output of data required to perform a specific task.

3.1 LOGON/LOGOFF

Access procedures to NPDMS may vary, depending on the receiving site's procedures and software environment. NPDMS is supported in both Customer Information Control System (CICS) or Time Sharing Option (TSO).

3.2 SECURITY

Security is provided through controlled access to ADABAS/NATURAL and NPDMS functions. For NPDMS, security is handled by both host-computer Data Base Administrator (DBA) or Security Administrator and the Installation's NPDMS System Administrator. Users will adhere to site-specific security regulations and procedures for requesting computer access.

ADABAS/NATURAL security is controlled by the receiving site's DBA. Access limitations include logo privileges to ADABAS/NATURAL and application libraries. The NPDMS access is requested by the NPDMS Installation's Systems Administrator.

Functional security for the execution of commands is handled by the NATURAL Security Command Processor. Functional security implies allowing or disallowing users or groups of users the capability to execute certain functions within NPDMS (i.e., Transactions). Functional security is not data driven. Functions are assigned based on the direct commands defined in NATURAL Security by the DBA. The assignment of functional security is coordinated with

the System Administrator (refer to Sections 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 for further coordination details).

This functional security is applicable to direct commands as well as menu and PF-Key navigation. The menu and PF-Key navigation functions use the same set of direct commands. These commands are defined internally as a table to facilitate movement through NPDMS. Therefore, a functional security definition in NATURAL Security is applicable to menu, PF-Key, and direct command navigation.

Authorization to gain access to NPDMS is controlled by the Installation's System Administrator. User access is controlled via a User Access Table containing the profile of each user. Access is provided at various levels of the system, system-wide (user access), functional area, and data level of processing. Controlling access to specific data records based upon values of fields within the records is controlled by the Installation's System Administrator, who may define data security for each NPDMS user through the NPDMS User Access Table. Only those persons authorized by the Installation's System Administrator are able to update the NPDMS User Access Table. For NPDMS, two user groups are required to support the data security requirements, one group for administrators and managers, and a second group for clerical users.

3.3 NPDMS NAVIGATION

The NATURAL 2.2 Command Processor defines and controls the navigation within NPDMS. Navigation through NPDMS is accomplished in three different forms: PF-Key Navigation, Direct Command, and Menu Hierarchy. The order of processing the system recognizes is as follows: a PF-Key command before a Direct Command, and a Direct Command before Menu Hierarchy.

- **PF-Key** – Allows direct access to certain functions from other functions through PF-Keys. Navigation between input screens to Case Review screens before, during, and after committing a transaction are via a PF-Key or Navigation line.

  Regardless of what navigational directions are typed on the screen or in the navigation line, NPDMS completes the current action or function and goes to the location directed by the pressed PF-Key. A message indicating the disposition of the current action is displayed on the new screen. Details of PF-Key navigation functions are discussed in Appendix D.

- **Direct Command** – Allows movement directly from one activity to another through a direct command feature. Each screen that allows direct commands has a navigation line on it. The user may enter any direct command on that line, and the system can then process that command.

  Regardless of what navigational directions are typed on the screen, NPDMS completes the current action or function and then executes the direct command after <Enter> is pressed by the user. A message indicating the disposition of the current action is displayed on the new screen under Fastpath name.

- **Menu Hierarchy** – Allows navigation through the Menu Hierarchy from the Main Menu to selected sub-functions. The navigation feature of Menu Hierarchy requires the user to enter a function that is displayed on the screen and press <Enter>. The function entered may require the entry of additional data.

  Regardless of what navigational directions are typed on the screen or in the navigation line, NPDMS completes the current action or function and goes to the location directed by the selected sub-function. A message indicating the disposition of the current action is displayed on the new screen.